

FRIENDS OF BOTESDALE HEALTH CENTRE REPORT 2020

References to the Coronavirus Pandemic will be outdated by the time this copy has been finished, let alone published. However, the very presence of the phenomenon is a timely reminder of how we depend on public health support nationally and on health practices locally. A distinct advantage has been evident in living in a rural environment as against a metropolitan area.

The Committee has been aware of the fragility of human life with the loss of two members. Colin Wilson, from Palgrave, resigned through ill health, and Heather Wilkinson, from Westhorpe, died. They were both active contributors - Colin with his ideas, organising abilities and generosity; Heather with her catering skills that were so generously given to enhance our public events.

Janet Russell is to be congratulated on securing a firm foundation for the Patient Participation Group (PPG), linked to the Botesdale Health Centre. This is a group of patients, carers and practice staff who meet regularly to assess and discuss practice issues and patient experience.

The Draw and the Jumble Sale, both organised by Monty & Pam Cornell, were both successful fund-raising events. Much of the income received during 2019 came from legacies and funeral collections. They were outward and visible expressions of thanks to the staff of the Centre for services received by the deceased during different phases of life.

The continued expansion of Botesdale, Redgrave and Rickinghall, together with that of other villages in the catchment area, means an increase in the numbers of people served by the Centre. This has been aided by the opening of the extension, the furnishing of which was undertaken by funds from the Friends.

John Humphries, Chairman of the FoBHC